

Testimony
Senate Bill 2081 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
January 14, 2013

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Maggie Anderson, Director of the Medical Services Division for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here in support of Senate Bill 2081, which was introduced at the request of the Department of Human Services.

The Department initiated this bill after learning of a couple of instances where women who became pregnant for the purpose of bearing a child for another person or couple were applying for Medicaid to cover the cost of the pregnancy and delivery. The Department contacted the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and we were told that we would need a state law to prohibit this from occurring.

Senate Bill 2081 would prohibit the Department from making payment under the medical assistance chapter for pregnancy-related services provided to a woman who becomes pregnant for the purpose of bearing a child for another person or couple.

Medicaid funding is critical to low-income and disabled individuals eligible to receive health care services paid by the program. The Department believes the pregnancy-related costs of a woman who agrees to become pregnant to bear a child for another person or couple are the responsibility of the intended parents and should not be the responsibility of a program that is designed to meet health needs of low-income and disabled individuals.

The Department requests your favorable consideration of Senate Bill 2081.

I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.